

REMARKS/DISCUSSION:

This Response B is being filed within three months after the shortened statutory period for response that ended on February 28, 2008. Accordingly, a Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time is made a part of the electronic filing transmission filed herewith.

By this Response A, claims 61-64 remain pending in this application. Claim 61 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 65, now canceled. Claim 64 has been amended to provide antecedent basis to the "blade".

Amendment and/or cancellation of claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims previously presented. Further, Applicant(s) reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter of such claims in continuation and/or divisional applications.

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. This Amendment is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or 103

Claims 61-62 and 64 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,013,048 to Podany or, in the alternative, as obvious over Podany. Claim 63 stands rejected as being obvious over Podany in view of Costin (5,733,256) as noted in the office action.

Claim 61 has been amended to add the subject matter of objected-to claim 65. Claims 62-62 dependent on claim 61.

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Conclusion

Applicants submit that in view of the discussion, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 have been overcome and that the invention is now patentable over the cited prior. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider all rejections and pass this case to issue.

Should any minor points remain prior to issuance of a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required to Account No. 10-0750/END0745USDIV2/VEK.

Respectfully submitted,

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